
Bay Area Mineralogists

September 2009

NEW LOCATION!

September 9, 2009, 7:00 pm
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-27

<http://www.baymin.org>



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The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year. After 18 years at Foothill College, change is upon us...

A New Home for BAM!!

After much hunting and finagling, we have a new (and eminently logical) site for our monthly meeting: the US Geological Survey in Menlo Park. Special thanks go to Gretchen Luepke, who sponsored BAM's request and helped shepherd it to a happy conclusion.

We will meet in room 3-237, aka Conference Room C, in Building 3. For those of you with a general knowledge of the USGS campus, building 3 is where the visitor center, map sales room and the auditorium are located. Our room is located on the second floor directly across the hall from the auditorium. There is an external stairway on the north side of the building with an entrance door at the top immediately adjacent to our room. Security will make sure this door is unlocked for us. (Across the walk from this stairway are the McKelvey Building and the library.) Depending on what's going on, other

entrances to the building may or may not be unlocked.

The USGS campus is located at 345 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. It is most easily approached by US 101 to either Marsh Road if coming from SF or Willow Road if coming from SJ. Take either road westward from 101 to Middlefield Road and turn to continue in the same direction you were travelling on 101, i.e., USGS is located between Marsh and Willow. A campus map can be accessed at <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>. Our room is located in Building 3, second floor where this map says "Conference Room". Parking is free.

We're certain to have some USGS folks drop in to see what we're all about, so be sure to say hello to any unfamiliar faces!

September Program: Dan Evanich on the BAM Eastern Sierra Field Trip

Our fall meetings will resume in September with a recap by Dan Evanich, Dave Lowe and others on the May field trip to the Eastern Sierra. Bring your favorite rocks from the trip if you went, or whatever you'd like to share with the group from your summer exploits.

BAM Fun in the Summertime: Picnics, Shows, & Other Good Stuff

Even with the usual summer meeting hiatus, plenty of mineral-related activities continued in

the area. Not that this represents an exhaustive list, but here are a few yours truly participated in, either directly or vicariously. (A big thank you to Dan E. for the photos needed for the latter!)

In June, Si and Ann Frazier hosted BAM at their place in Albany. Those who attended were treated to a fantastic opportunity to view the Frazier's collection of quartz and other mineralogical wonders, as well as their staggering library. To top it off, Si gave a talk on pseudomorphs punctuated with great pics and numerous anecdotes.

July found many a the local rockhound attending the inaugural San Francisco Fine Mineral Show, certainly a geographically-dubious moniker for a shindig in San Rafael. That quibble aside, the show brought in a good crowd of mid- to high-end dealers with some truly fantastic rocks. One example on display was "Mongo", a whacking huge smoky quartz scepter found this summer at Foster Hallman's claim on Petersen Mt. (aka Hallelujah Junction). Checking in at almost two feet long, it bore more resemblance to a medieval weapon than a mineral specimen.



"Mongo" the Sceptre. Pic courtesy of Cascades Scepters, Maple Valley Washington. (http://www.palagems.com/mineral_news_2009_v1.htm)

Prices generally were not for the faint of heart, but great minerals aplenty and a few deals to be had if you looked hard enough. Here's hoping Year One generated enough interest to make it an annual event.

Back on more well-traveled ground, August began with the San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society's annual show in ... wait for it... San Francisco. This year's theme was jade and the SFGMS brought out their legendary clock carved entirely of jade.

BAM was present and accounted for once again this year, contributing both a case for the displays and volunteers for the mineral ID table. A thank you to all who contributed their time and expertise to the identification table – I apologize that I don't have a list to call out everyone individually!



BAM Mineral ID team in action: Bill Spence, (unknown), David Lowe, Stan Bogosian, and Gary Moss; Len Pisciotta in the background.

On August 17, Stan Bogosian hosted the annual BAM picnic at his home in Saratoga. In addition to the usual good food and conversation, there were giveaway materials from Len Piszczewicz and Rick Kennedy, self-collected rocks from Stan for trade and (eventually) for sale, and the annual silent auction. The auction was a huge success, pulling in \$900 – nearly twice last year's bounty.



Ladies, gentlemen, and maggots (right), start your bidding!



Rick Kennedy checks Gail Dunning for rocks while Chuck, Paul, Jean and others look on. Gail later identified a new species in Rick's findings.



Gary Moss models the infamous Benitoite Bolo

Big thanks to the Bogosians for hosting and for all those who donated and/or bid on specimens at the auction – hope to see you there next year!

Strawberry Mine Field Trip, September 18-20

Lee McIlvaine has managed to make arrangements with the new owner of the Strawberry Mine out near Fresno. He's planning a trip out there in a couple of weeks, with a tentative itinerary as follows:

Friday PM (optional): Travel to Strawberry Mine (4-5hrs from Bay Area)

Friday night (optional): Camp near Granite Creek or other, and if time, night UV lamping for scheelite.

Saturday AM: Travel to mine (alternative)

Saturday PM: Collect minerals at mine

Saturday night: Camping and night time UV lamping for scheelite

Sunday AM: Final collecting, pack up, head for home by 5pm at the latest

Whether or not to leave Friday or Saturday morning is still up for debate, so both options are up for discussion. Lee will be at Wednesday's meeting to discuss further with anyone interested. He's also reachable via cell at 510.325.0082.

Clear Creek Update

Notes from El Jefe Spence:

"For those who weren't at the picnic, the status at Clear Creek is that the DRAFT environmental impact report will be issued in September, so be on the lookout for it, and do give BLM your inputs on it. It seems virtually impossible that the recreational ban at Clear Creek will be lifted before sometime in 2011 or 2012. The EIR must be finalized after public input and then the resource management plan must go through the same draft/public input/final process. I'm told the draft EIR includes 6 options, but I don't know the substance of any of them."

Upcoming Shows

September 19-20

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society
Community Activities Building
1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City
10am-5pm both days

September 18-19

Santa Lucia Rockhounds
Pioneer Park & Museum
2010 Riverside Dr, Paso Robles
10am-5pm both days

September 19-20

Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
Scottish Rite Temple
33 W. Alpine, Stockton
10am-5pm both days

September 26-27

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Monterey Fairgrounds
2004 Fairgrounds Rd
Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Letters to the BAM Editor

Please send your comments, content, compliments, and/or complaints to Don Windeler, don.windeler@rms.com, 650-591-1644.